

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (Currently Amended) A wireless communication device for performing wireless communication with a master station, comprising:

an image encoding unit for encoding image acquired by a camera to obtain image data of instructed quality;

wireless communication means for transmitting, by wireless, the image encoded by said image encoding unit to the master station;

wireless communication state judging means for judging a state of the wireless communication with the master station on the basis of a receive level of a predetermined signal transmitted from the master station;

image quality decision means for determining quality of image to be encoded by said image encoding unit, in accordance with the wireless communication state; and

image quality instruction means for instructing said image encoding unit to encode the image with the quality determined by said image quality decision means.

2. (Original) The wireless communication device according to claim 1, further comprising processing load measurement means for measuring processing load imposed on said wireless communication means,

wherein said image quality decision means determines quality of image to be encoded by said image encoding unit, in accordance with the processing load on said wireless communication means and the wireless communication state.

3. (Original) The wireless communication device according to claim 2, wherein said image quality decision means determines an image quality with higher data compression ratio, out of an image quality matching the processing load on said wireless communication means

and an image quality matching the wireless communication state, as the quality of image to be encoded by said image encoding unit.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The wireless communication device according to claim 41, wherein said predetermined signal is a beacon signal.

6. (Original) The wireless communication device according to claim 1, wherein said image quality decision means predicts a future communication state on the basis of the wireless communication state and determines the image quality in accordance with the predicted communication state.

7. (Original) The wireless communication device according to claim 1, wherein said wireless communication state judging means detects error of a predetermined signal transmitted from the master station, and judges the wireless communication state on the basis of occurrence of the error.

8. (Original) A wireless communication device for performing wireless communication with a master station, comprising:

an image encoding unit for encoding image acquired by a camera to obtain image data of instructed quality;

wireless communication means for transmitting, by wireless, the image encoded by said image encoding unit to the master station;

processing load measurement means for measuring processing load imposed on said wireless communication means;

image quality decision means for determining quality of image to be encoded by said image encoding unit, in accordance with the processing load measured by said processing load measurement means; and

image quality instruction means for instructing said image encoding unit to encode the image with the quality determined by said image quality decision means.

9. (Currently Amended) A wireless communication method for performing wireless

communication with a master station, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

~~judging, by wireless communication state judging means, a state of the wireless communication with the master station~~ on the basis of a receive level of a predetermined signal transmitted from the master station;

~~determining, by image quality decision means, quality of image to be encoded by an image encoding unit, in accordance with the wireless communication state~~ that is judged;

~~instructing, by image quality instruction means, encoding of image with the quality determined by the image quality decision means;~~

~~encoding, by the image encoding unit, image acquired by a camera to obtain image data of the~~ determined quality instructed by the image quality instruction means; and

~~transmitting, by wireless communication means, the image encoded by the image encoding unit to the master station by wireless.~~

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium recording a wireless communication program for performing wireless communication with a master station, wherein the wireless communication program causes a computer to function as:

wireless communication means for transmitting image encoded by an image encoding unit which encodes image acquired by a camera to obtain image data of instructed quality, to the master station by wireless;

wireless communication state judging means for judging a state of the wireless communication with the master station on the basis of a receive level of a predetermined signal transmitted from the master station;

image quality decision means for determining quality of image to be encoded by the image encoding unit, in accordance with the wireless communication state; and

image quality instruction means for instructing the image encoding unit to encode the image with the quality determined by the image quality decision means.